to appropriate global <u>geometric</u> [values] <u>variables</u> from the global file such that changes of global

<u>geometric</u> variables in the global file may cause changes in the <u>design</u> cells in accordance with

parameters in the local files.

9.      (Amended)    A computer-readable medium having a computer program stored thereon

to cause a suitably equipped computer to update a set of <u>geometric</u> parameters of a design cell by

relating local <u>geometric</u> variables of a local file for the design cell to a global file of global

<u>geometric</u> variables relating to layout of element blocks of a hierarchical semiconductor structure

such that changes of a global <u>geometric</u> variable in the global file may cause changes in the cells

in accordance with parameters in the local files.

15.     (Amended)    A computer comprising:

        a processor;

        a computer-readable medium;

        a global file of global <u>geometric</u> variables stored on the medium, at least some of the

global <u>geometric</u> variables relating to <u>physical</u> layout of element blocks of a hierarchical

semiconductor structure;

        a plurality of local files stored on the medium, each local file containing parameters

relating a plurality of local variables to the global <u>geometric</u> variables; and,

        a computer program executed by the processor from the medium to automatically update

a set of parameters for each of a plurality of programmable design cells, each cell having a

corresponding local file, by reading, from the global file, values for the global <u>geometric</u>

variables to which the local variables of the local file correspond.

22.     (Amended)    A computerized method comprising:

        changing within a cleansheet file at least one of a plurality of design rules for defining the

physical layout of a hierarchical semiconductor structure;

        updating values for a plurality of global <u>geometric</u> variables of a global file based on the

design rules of the cleansheet file; and,